COAST GUARD
MARINE SAFETY OFFICE

TOLEDO

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Licensing Requirements for Uninspected Passenger Vessel Operators

Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires all personnel who operate any vessel, carrying passengers for hire on the Navigable Waters of the United States, to possess a Masters, Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel (OUPV) or Limited OUPV license. Under an OUPV license, the operator may not carry more than 6 passengers on his or her vessel. A vessel is defined as any conveyance that is designed to operate on open water, which may or may not be self-propelled by steam, motor or sail. An example of a vessel that is non-self propelled would be a canoe.

Carrying passengers for hire is defined as the carriage of any person or persons by a vessel for valuable consideration, whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, operator, agent or any other person interested in the vessel. If a person takes passengers out for fishing or any other purposes on his or her recreational vessel and receives some sort of compensation and does not posses an appropriate license and is on a navigable water of the U.S., he or she is in violation of 46 CFR 15.401. If a person is caught violating 46 CFR 15.401, the voyage will be immediately terminated and a civil penalty of a maximum of $11,000.00 may be initiated.

A person acting as a licensed sportsman's guide, which does not use a vessel in his or her operation is <u>not</u> required to posses a Masters or Limited OUPV License. This includes guides who take clients over frozen waters by foot or snowmobile or who fish from the shoreline.

For more information about obtaining a Masters or Limited OUPV License, please visit the U.S. Coast Guard Licensing website at http://www.uscg.mil/STCW/m-pers.htm or phone the Regional Exam Center in Toledo, Ohio at (419) 418-6010.

Sincerely,

C. L. ROBERGE